

In line 20, please delete "Fig. 4 is intended for the abstract".

REMARKS

The present application was filed under 35 USC 371 claiming priority to PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/02662. Originally filed Claims 1 – 15 have been canceled and new claims 16 – 28 have been added.

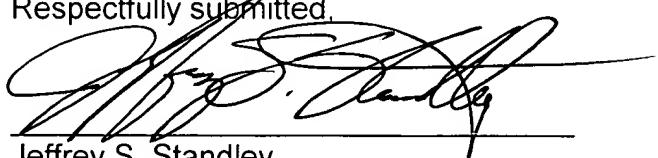
As a result of the foregoing Amendment, claims 16 - 28 are pending in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to consider the pending claims which are believed to be new and unobvious over the prior art.

The Abstract has been amended to delete the figure reference numbers.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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